

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 5; amend Claims 1, 10, 19 and 20; all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically generating a multi-level video summary, comprising:

automatically dividing a video file into full motion video segments using segmenting criteria;  
automatically generating at least ~~[[one]]~~ two summary ~~[[level]]~~ levels, including wherein each of the summary levels has a different level of detail for related video segments and each of the summary levels is a linear full motion video which includes at least one of the video segments from the video file, the video segments in each of the summary ~~[[level]]~~ levels selected using selection criteria; and

automatically generating navigational links between the video segments in the summary levels, the navigational links connecting the video segments containing related material.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
automatically determining the length of each summary level.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
automatically grouping video segments in a summary level into a video composite, the video composite including at least two video segments in the summary level.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
providing a user interface whereby a user can view the multi-level video summary, the user interface allowing the user to navigate between summary levels using the navigational links.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
automatically determining the number of summary levels to generate.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
automatically determining which navigational links to generate.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
providing at least one algorithm to be used in generating a multi-level video summary.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
the selection criteria includes criteria selected from the group consisting of goodness, smoothness of camera operation, amount of camera motion, location in the video, and lighting level.
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
providing the ability for an author to refine ~~[[an]] the~~ automatically-generated multi-level video ~~[[summary]] summaries~~.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
including the first and last video segments from the video file in the summary levels.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
ensuring that the selection of video segments includes video segments distributed throughout the video file.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
each navigational link includes a source anchor in one summary level, a destination anchor in another summary level, and at least one return behavior.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein:  
each navigational link further includes a label.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:  
automatically grouping some of the video segments in a summary level into a video composite that will be a source anchor for a link to another summary level.
16. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
the video segments in each summary level are in chronological order as the video segments appear in the video file.
17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:  
each summary level includes a different number of video segments.
18. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein:  
the return behavior includes a return position selected from the group consisting of the beginning of a video segment, the point in a video segment at which a navigational link is followed, and the end of a video segment.
19. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically generating a multi-level video summary, comprising:  
means for automatically dividing a video file into full motion video segments using segmenting criteria;  
means for automatically generating at least ~~[[one]]~~ two summary ~~[[level]]~~ levels, including wherein each of the summary levels has a different level of detail for related video segments and each of the summary levels is a linear full motion video which includes at least one of the video segments from the video file, the video segments in each of the summary ~~[[level]]~~ levels selected using selection criteria; and  
means for automatically generating navigational links between the video segments in the summary levels, the navigational links connecting the video segments containing related material.
20. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer program product for execution by a processor for~~ automatically generating a multi-level video summary, comprising machine readable medium having executable instructions stored thereon that when executed cause a system to:

~~computer-code-for~~ automatically ~~[[dividing]]~~ divide a video file into full motion video segments using segmenting criteria;

~~computer-code-for~~ automatically ~~generating~~ generate at least ~~[[one]]~~ two summary ~~[[level]]~~ levels, including ~~wherein each of the summary levels has a different level of detail for related video segments and each of the summary levels is a linear full motion video which includes at least one of~~ the video segments from the video file, the video segments in each ~~of the~~ summary ~~[[level]]~~ levels selected using selection criteria; and

~~computer-code-for~~ automatically ~~generating~~ generate navigational links between the video segments in the summary levels, the navigational links connecting the video segments containing related material.